

Message Text

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13

ACTION IO-13

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, AQ

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24: AMERICAN SAMOA

1. AT JULY 8 MEETING OF SUBCOMMITTEE OF COMMITTEE OF 24 ONLY
SPEAKER ON ITEM OF AMERICAN SAMOA WAS AUSTRALIA (REID. MAJOR
AREA OF INTEREST CONCERNED UPCOMING REFERENDUM ON THE QUESTION
OF POPULAR ELECTION OF GOVERNOR AND LT. GOVERNOR. IN PARTICULAR
AUSTRALIA WISHED TO KNOW WHEN THE SPECIAL ELECTION COMMISSIONER
WAS TO BE APPOINTED AND WHETHER THE POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
PRIOR TO THE REFERENDUM HAD ALREADY BEGUN OR WOULD BE HELD
UP PENDING APPOINTMENT OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.

2. WITH REGARD TO THE POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM, AUSTRALIA
REQUESTED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE CONTENT OF THE PROGRAM
AND HOW THE QUESTION OF POPULAR ELECTION WOULD BE PRESENTED TO
THE AMERICAN SAMOAN VOTER. HE SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE OF HELP TO
THE SUBCOMMITTEE IF MATERIAL TO BE USED DURING THE POLITICAL
EDUCATION PROGRAM COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE.
AUSTRALIA ALSO RAISED THE QUESTION OF VOTER ELIGIBILITY
REQUIREMENTS. HE ASKED IF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY
PLANNED TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF GRANTING VOTING FRANCHISE TO
LONG TERM RESIDENTS OF AMERICAN SAMOA, WHO WERE NOT OF SAMOAN
ANCESTRY. AND IN THIS CONNECTION HE ALSO NOTED THE PROBLEM POSED BY
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THE FACT THAT 60,000 AMERICAN SAMOANS ARE CURRENTLY RESIDING OUT-

SIDE AMERICAN SAMOA.

3. AUSTRALIA NOTED THE POPULATION INCREASE ON AMERICAN SAMOA WAS CURRENTLY 3.5 PERCENT AND, AS LAST YEAR, ASKED IF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WAS PROMOTING EDUCATION IN THE FIELD OF FAMILY PLANNING. AUSTRALIA CLOSED BY URGING A VISITING MISSION BE INVITED TO AMERICAN SAMOA AND REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN SAMOA PARTICIPATE IN THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S CONSIDERATION OF AMERICAN SAMOA.

4. MISOFF STATED HE WOULD ADDRESS QUESTIONS RAISED BY AUSTRALIA IN CLOSING STATEMENT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: USUN WILL REQUIRE CLOSING STATEMENT FOR MEETING OF SUBCOMMITTEE SCHEDULED FOR MORNING JULY 13.

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